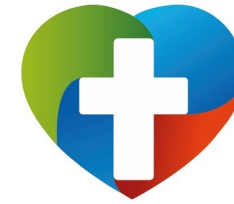




"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."



Romford
BAPTIST CHURCH

Grapevine



Family Magazine
April 2025
and
May 2025
No. 231

www.chrisduffettART.com



From the Editor

Sometimes we find ourselves tired, anxious or weary. Circumstances seem to be out of our control, and we might feel a bit shaken by events happening around us or to us.

Psalm 55:22 says,

*“Cast your cares on the Lord
and he will sustain you;
he will never let
the righteous be shaken.”*

Many of us know this verse, have sung versions of it over the years, and maybe it is just a verse we have read but have not really thought about. I have recently had the privilege of witnessing the incredible way that God has sustained some of his people while they were experiencing very difficult times. With a deep faith and yet coming completely empty before the Lord, He has renewed their strength to walk and not be faint (see *Isaiah 40:31*). What a powerful witness to God’s love and faithfulness.

As you read this edition of Grapevine, you will be reminded that we have many opportunities of sharing God’s love and care with others, whether it be through trying out some Evangelism activities, sharing encouraging Bible verses, proclaiming Jesus as our Saviour through testimony or Baptism, giving to the Foodbank or joining various RBC programmes.

May you be blessed as you experience God’s sustaining love throughout this Holy season and beyond.

Cheryl Schulte

Editorial Team

Cheryl Schulte	Editor
Bernd Schulte	Layout and Production
Kathy Pomeroy	Proof Reader
Tanyya Chingombe	Printing
Gill Ayris	Collation
Alex Savine	Photos
J. Giwa-Majekodunmi	Photos
D.Majekodunmi	Photos

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Team Minister (With focus on the older generation)

Rev. Vikki Bunce

Minister in Training

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Church Secretary

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Current Church Activities



Monday

9:30am

Amaze support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs (usually 1st Monday in the month)

12:00-2:00pm

Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)

Tuesday

10:00am

Needlecraft Group

10.30am

Amaze Adults support group for adults with additional needs

2:00-3.30pm

Treasure Times

8:00pm

Prayer meeting on Zoom

7:45pm

RBC Worship Team meet

Wednesday

10:00-11:15am

Parent and Toddlers

12:45pm

Prayer

7:45pm

Life Groups

Thursday

10:00am

Thursday morning Life Group, alternate Thursdays (please call church office for dates)

10:00-11:00am

‘Come and join us for a chat’, 1st and 3rd Thursdays

11:00am-3:00pm

Holiday at Home – for over 65s, usually termly

7:30-9:00pm

Youth Club (alternate weeks)

Friday

10:00am

Craft Group in the Meeting Place

Sunday

10:30am

Morning Worship in the building and online

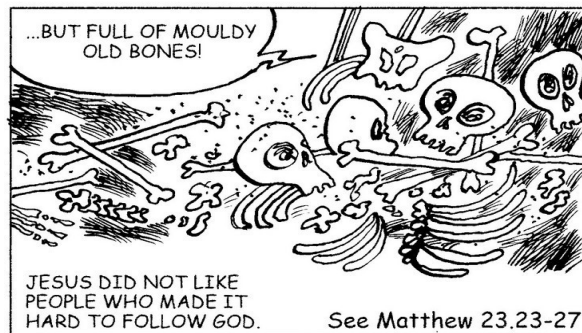
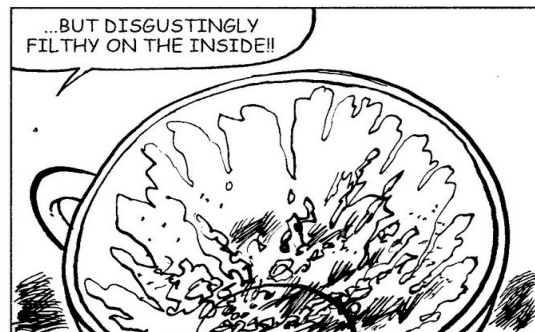
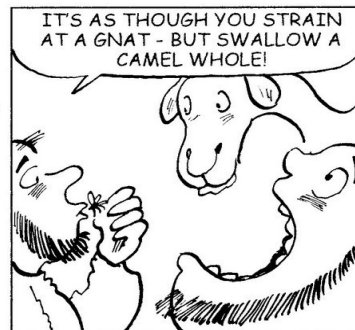
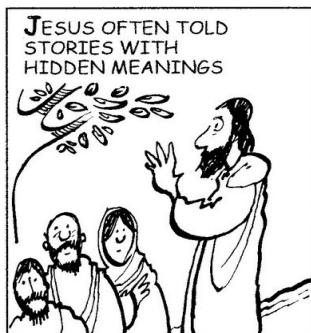
6:00pm

Evening Worship in the building and online

If you have any regular church activity which you would like to have included, please let the editor know.

Our purpose is to take the life-changing message of Jesus Christ to all, with the goal that they become His loyal disciples.

"Some tough talking"



Pastor's page

By the time you are reading this we are well into the season of Lent and I wonder if you started if off with the traditional pancakes with butter and sugar? As someone who doesn't enjoy eating pancakes they certainly won't have featured for me but, as those who attended the March Madness day earlier this month will know, the way that other countries mark or start off Lent may have more appeal. For example, the day before Shrove Tuesday is a bank holiday in Greece and families go kite-flying or to the beach for a picnic, the Sunday before Shrove Tuesday see people enjoying cream/jam filled buns in Denmark (much more to my taste) whilst in Sweden pancakes are traditionally accompanied by bowls of pea soup.

For many of us the point behind Lent probably passes us by, other than the initial eating of pancakes, unless we have opted to fast from cakes, biscuits and chocolates, a choice that is often made by people to mark the season of Lent as a reminder of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by Satan. All too often however, we don't even think about Lent and it's not until we reach Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week that our focus begins to turn to Easter, but I think there is some merit in recognising this season even if we only do so to stop us being so self-focused and more outward looking. That's why churches often come together for the season of Lent as courses written specially for this time to help us be more open to the needs of the world around us.

So my challenge to each one of us is

this: what difference is the rest of Lent going to make to you this year? For those of us who are part of a Small Group, we are being reminded how we need to become better disciples and so we are practising the spiritual disciplines that are aimed at helping us become more attuned to being a follower of Jesus and we will continue to do that as we move through Lent. However, for others, if we've not chosen to give something up, let's perhaps use the remaining weeks of Lent to give of our time (even just once a week) in helping others who are struggling or to bless someone in a practical way, perhaps through a visit, a phone call or through the gift of hospitality. Perhaps we want to use the remaining weeks to read a part of the Bible each day, that we usually avoid, so we can become more familiar with God's word, take 5 minutes a day to pray for a different country in the world to widen our awareness of the struggles that the people living there may be facing, set aside an item of food each day for the foodbank or maybe we can pick up our church directory and pray each day for those that are contained inside the pages.

However you choose to mark this period between now and Easter, can I encourage you to connect with God, with one another or with our community in a new way so that when we come to celebrate Easter we will do so having been on our own journey of discovery and adventure that will hopefully have taken us closer to God along the way.

Rev. Vikki Bunce
Team Minister (With focus on the older generation)

Baptisms

26th January 2025



Chidi Oluoha

"I took you from the ends of the earth,
from its farthest corners I called you.
I said, 'You are my servant';
I have chosen you and have not re-
jected you.

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your
God.

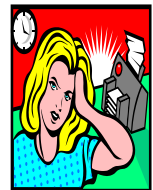
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous
right hand."

Isiah 41:9-10

Fiyin Oluwole

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to every-
one I send you to and say whatever I
command you. Do not be afraid of
them, for I am with you and will re-
scue you," declares the Lord.

Jer1:7-8



**The deadline for the
June 2025/July 2025 edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 11 May 2025**

Please give any items to Cheryl Schulte, or email them
to Cheryl at:

grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk



(Continued from page 13)

"Do NOT eat anything you find on the
ground, or anything from strangers!"

On Easter morning we tell them: "Why
don't you go outside and search in the
dirt for choco-
lates that a
strange giant
bunny has left
for you?"



Why Easter

A Sunday
School teacher had been explaining
why Easter should matter to us, and
wanted to make sure her group under-
stood. So she asked, "Can anyone tell
me what you must do before you can
obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then,
from the back of the room, a small boy
spoke up. "Sin?"

10 Easter one-liners

What do you need if your chocolate
eggs mysteriously disappear? *An egg-
splanation*

What kind of jewellery does the Easter
Bunny wear? *14-carrot gold*

What is the Easter Bunny's favourite
kind of music? *Hip hop*

What do you call an Easter Bunny
wearing a kilt? *Hopscotch*

What do you call a bunny with
fleas? *Bugs Bunny*

What do you call a line of rabbits jump-

ing backwards? *A receding hare-line*

How can you tell which rabbits are old-
est in a group? *Just look for the gray
hares.*

Why do people paint eggs for Easter?
It's easier than trying to wallpaper
them!

What do rabbits say before they eat?
"Lettuce pray."

Where does Christmas come before
Easter? The dictionary.

Bulletin announcements that didn't come out quite right...

On Easter Sunday, our bulletin read:
"Jesus was buried in a bomb but He
lives today!"

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and
the life. Whoever believes in Me, even
though he diets, yet shall he live."

Hymn: 'I Need Three Every Hour'

Letter to God

A Sunday School teacher invited her
children to write a letter to God. They
were to bring their letter back the fol-
lowing Sunday. One little boy wrote,
"Dear God, we had a good time at
church today. Wish You could have
been there."



Encouraging Bible Verse

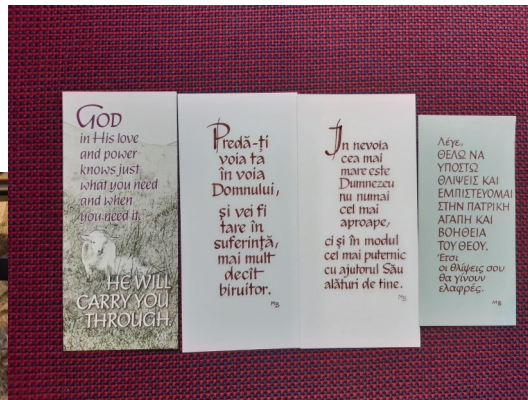
During the summer holidays last year, Cheryl and I visited Temppeleaukio Church in Helsinki. Temppeleaukio Church is a Lutheran church.

I would like to make Encouragement Bookmarks. The idea is that you email me (bschulte@romfordbaptist.org.uk) the encouraging Bible quote and reference name. eg. **"Er, der ein gutes Werk in euch begonnen hat, wird es bis zum Tag Jesu Christi vollenden". Philippians 1:6 [Deutsch]**, in your vernacular. If your vernacular is English this includes you. I will then put them together in a bookmark-type format, so that we can get them printed.

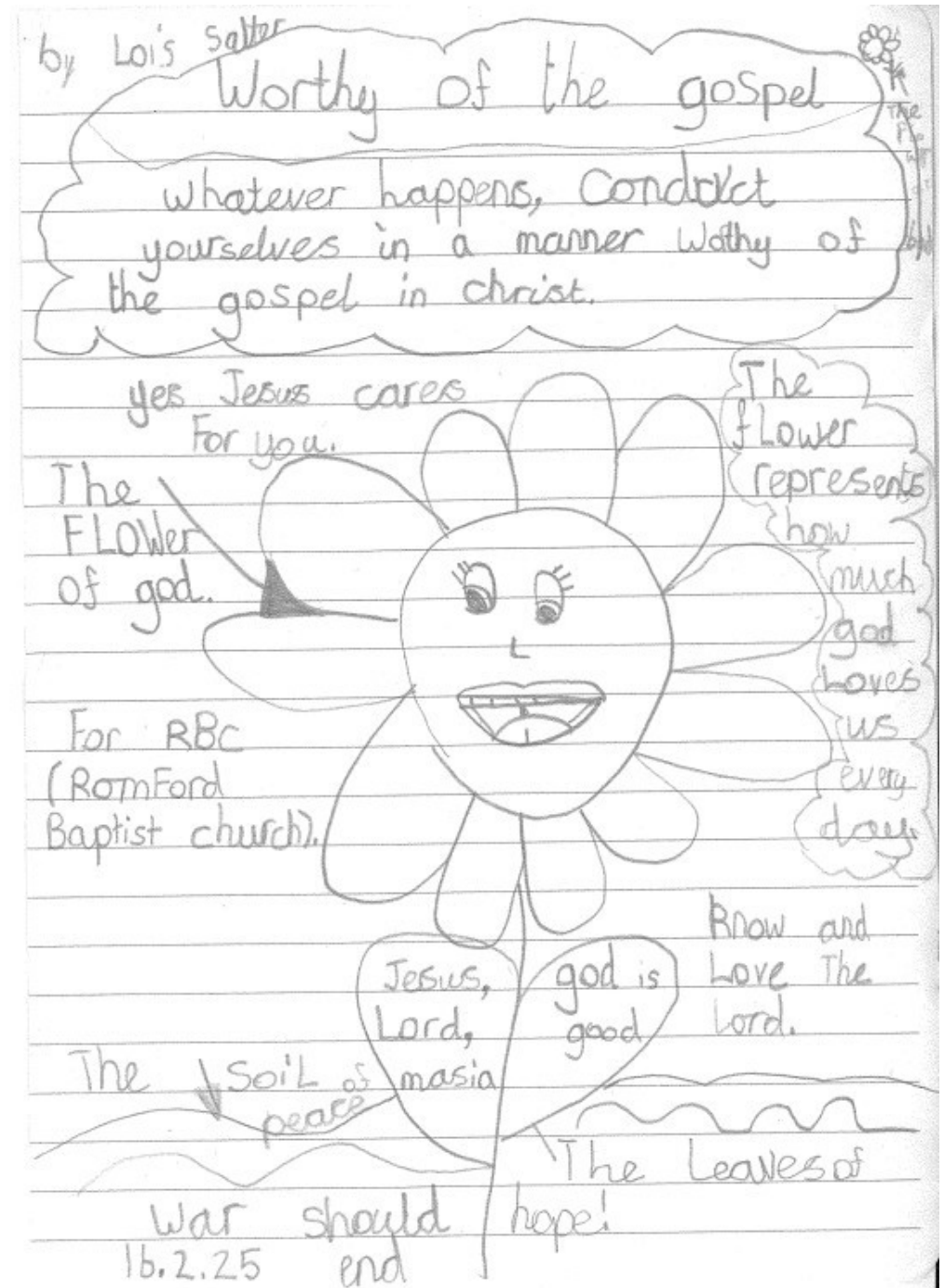
These can be handed out to visitors or anyone can take as a word of encouragement.



They had the following bookmarks available in many different languages, which I would like to make for us at Romford Baptist - however I need your help.



Bernd Schulte



BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME



I have received a letter from Dr Kang-San Tan, the General Director of BMS World Mission, in which he expresses his thanks to all who have given a gift to the Birthday Scheme on their birthday. The generous gift of £925 that RBC sent to BMS last year is 'supporting children with disabilities in Nepal, and sharing fulness of life across the globe.

You have helped provide support to those, like a little boy called Kamal, who had been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. In spite of spending all their money on trying to find treatment for him, his parents were unable to access any help for either Kamal, or his mother, Mina.

Dr Tan writes: *That's all changed.....By giving to the Birthday Scheme (you) have helped enable (them) to be part of a nine-day cerebral palsy camp.run by a Paediatric Consultant, at BMS-supported Green Pastures Hospital in Polkhara, Mina learned how to better support Kamal's development.*

She was taught exercises to do with him to help strengthen his muscles and improve his motor skills. She also learned different feeding techniques, so Kamal can now swallow his food more easily.

(This support) was transformative.... and Mina now knows she is not alone. and is now better equipped to care for

Kamal and help him have the best chance to develop and grow into all God has created him to be.'

Dr Tan continues:-

...those at Romford Baptist Church who have chosen to give life on their birthdays have made this possible. Thank you!and your impact doesn't end with Kamal in Nepal. You're helping to share the gospel in unreached places in North Africa and Asia. You're providing a lifeline for people displaced from their homes because of conflict or disaster. You're helping people grow food to feed and provide for their families in Uganda. And you're bringing fulness of life across the globe.'

With Dr Tan I join in thanking you again for 'choosing to transform lives'.

If you are interested in more details or wish to join the Birthday Scheme, please see me or contact me on christinebrown14@btinternet.com and I will be pleased to explain how the scheme works.

Christine Brown

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Birthdays April 2025

25th Kathy Metcalf



Birthdays May 2025

23rd Elizabeth Callender



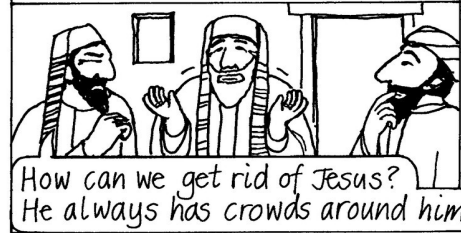
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Lk 22:1-13, Mt 26:14-19, Mk 14:10-16

It was just before Passover, when Jews celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem...

The Chief Priests were plotting



Jesus' disciple Judas came to them...



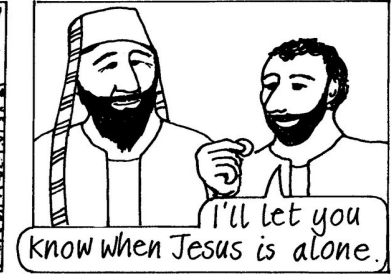
We'd be happy to pay you



30 silver coins



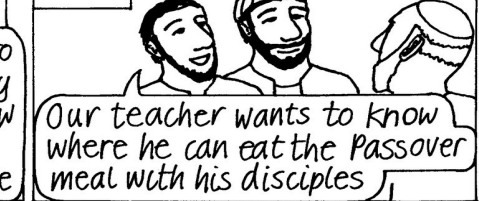
30 silver coins happened to be the same amount that had to be paid as compensation to the owner if a slave was killed Ex.31:32



Meanwhile, Peter and John asked Jesus...



They did, and asked the house owner



The room is upstairs on the roof, ready to use



Peter and John got the meal ready



That evening, Jesus and his 12 disciples went to the room to eat the Passover meal.



**Evangelism- for evangelists
or for everyone?**

*4 questions to help us grow in
confidence to shine.*

**2) What's in your
mouth?**

3) What's in your mind?



"YOUR LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN SHOULD
MAKE NON-BELIEVERS QUESTION
THEIR DISBELIEF IN GOD."
- DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

**Gentleness
and respect**

www.chrisduffettART.com

Key text: 1 Peter 3.15

Written to the church in exile.

...But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...(NRSV)

4) What's in your hand?

- Use what you've got!
-1 Peter 2.11
-1 Peter 4.10

**1) What's in your
heart?**

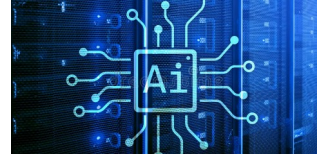
The challenge for the afternoon:

- 1) Painting team.
- 2) 'This means that.'
- 3) Prayer walking.
- 4) Tray challenge.
- 5) We're here to pray for you!



What AI makes of RBC

In a moment of needing creativity I simply asked ChatGPT.com the following "Write a poem about Romford Baptist Church" 10 second later I had the poem below. You will see I changed just one word in the last stanza as we do not have bells, otherwise it was just so interesting! I share simply for your interest



Romford Baptist Church

*Amid the town where footsteps blend,
A house of love, where hearts ascend.
Romford Baptist stands so bright,
A beacon shining heaven's light.*

*Through doors held wide with welcome
warm,
A refuge safe from life's great storm.
The weary soul, the searching mind,
Find grace and peace in Christ confined.*

*The voices rise in joyful praise,
Through hymns of hope, our spirits
raise.
The Word is preached, so strong, so true,
A guide for all, for me, for you.*

*Hands that serve, hearts that share,
A family bound in love and prayer.
Through every trial, every test,
God's love remains—our hope, our rest.*

*So let the bells songs of worship ring,
Let every voice in chorus sing.
For Romford Baptist, tried and true,
Will stand in faith, in love renew.*

Pastor Ian

The Repair Shop



I don't know about you, but I simply love the programme 'The Repair Shop' on BBC. The fascinating stories, the skill and patience of the people who repair a myriad of items and the reaction of the owners when their precious, restored item is uncovered.

There is a critical requirement though from the people who bring their possessions to The Repair Shop. Trust. They need to trust the people in the famous barn to look after and restore their item. In fact, quite often one will hear the repairers say "Thank you for trusting us with this item." There's another important factor in this emotional transactional also - the people have to actually leave their possessions in the barn and walk away so their items can be restored.

When I think about someone else sorting out a problem or a situation in my life, it leaves me cold much of the time. I usually think I'm the best person for the job. I know what I want to achieve, or what a result should look like. I'm very good at admin, lists, typing and the like. At work, I'm known as the 'Label Queen'. So passing something

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

over to someone else is quite a challenge for me. What if they get it wrong? What if it doesn't turn out the way I want it to? As the saying goes.... 'If you want something doing properly, do it yourself.' Perhaps this is why I find it so hard to trust God at times. I mull over solutions in my head and usually I can come up with a scenario where everything works out just fine – usually in my favour. There are times I believe I have the answers to everyone's problems! "Why not do it this way God? That seems like a perfectly logical solution to me".

However, in my long Christian experience, I've come to learn that God is often far from logical and certainly doesn't need any advice from me! We read in Isaiah 55 verse 8 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord.' Indeed, heavenly logic often clashes with what seems logical in our human understanding and certainly contradicts what appears to be socially acceptable these days. Many times our responses are not in line with what most people think is reasonable. Forgiveness instead of revenge. Tolerance instead of anger. Generosity instead of selfishness. But I've always found God blesses me when I've done things His way. It often surprises people too; a wonderful witness which makes people stop and take notice.

For me, prayer requests start out in the right way. I pray about something and ask God to sort it out for me. But then I take that prayer request right back and metaphorically walk away with it again, ready to fix it myself. It's easy for me to quote the Bible, sing the songs and say all the right words. How many times have I sung songs like

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus". Oh, I believe it fervently when I'm singing it in church. But over the next few days I'm usually back again, trying to think about how that situation could be resolved.

I'm not suggesting for one moment that I should simply absolve myself of all effort. Sometimes God gives me the solution and I know I have my part to play in making it come to pass. But that's just the point – it's HIS solution, not mine. So I'll continue to try and trust God with those areas of my life which seem a mess. Like in the famous Repair Shop barn, I want to walk away knowing my problem is in good hands. Usually at the end of the programme, the item has been restored far beyond the hopes and dreams of the owners. I'm sure God is like that too. His solution will surely be better and far beyond what I had imagined. So forgive me Lord, when I try and step on your toes and help me to spiritually 'walk out of the barn', leaving You to sort out the best solution.

Sarah Jenkin

'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord.'
Isaiah 55 verse 8

(Continued from page 12)



cooked lunch served up by Jan and Lesley, aided by her team, before ending our time together singing and even a bit of dancing or arm actions to songs such as 'YMCA' and 'Wide wide as the ocean'.

A good time was had by all who engaged and we're now ready for our summer gathering, 17-19 June 2025, with the theme of 'Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner'.

Answers – 1886 and National Dentist week



Rev. Vikki Bunce
Team Minister (With focus on the older generation)

(Continued from page 11)

Outside

A little boy had spent all afternoon playing outdoors, and accidentally left his jacket at the end of the garden. When his mother realised this a couple of hours later, she told him to go back and get it. But by now the garden was dark, and so the little boy hesitated.

"Don't be frightened," she said. "The Lord is out there too."

That gave the little boy an idea. He opened the back door and called softly: 'Lord, please could you pass me my jacket?'

Easter chocolate dilemma

364 days of the year we tell our kids:

(Continued on page 17)

Holiday at Home



Who would have guessed that when people turned up for their Holiday at Home themed day in March, that they would have been greeted by Vikki with

ears and whiskers and wearing a spring bonnet, all part of getting everyone into the silliness of the day.

After starting our day with refreshments, we celebrated the International day of the name label by creat-

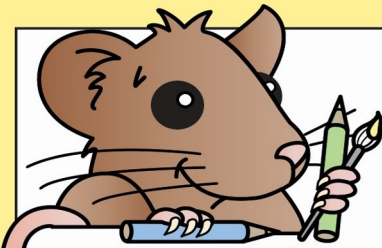
ing our own, followed by spring bonnets or opting to chat or play board games headed up by John.

But there was no rest for those who had come in as they moved into the hall for a ridiculous quiz including questions like 'In what year was the oldest message in a bottle put into the sea - it was pulled out on 6 March 2018?' or 'Which profession are we supposed to be celebrating this week in National ____ week?' [answers below]. Full marks to Alan for coming out top.

After a Thought for the Day it was back into the hall for a fabulously




(Continued on page 13)




Mouse Makes

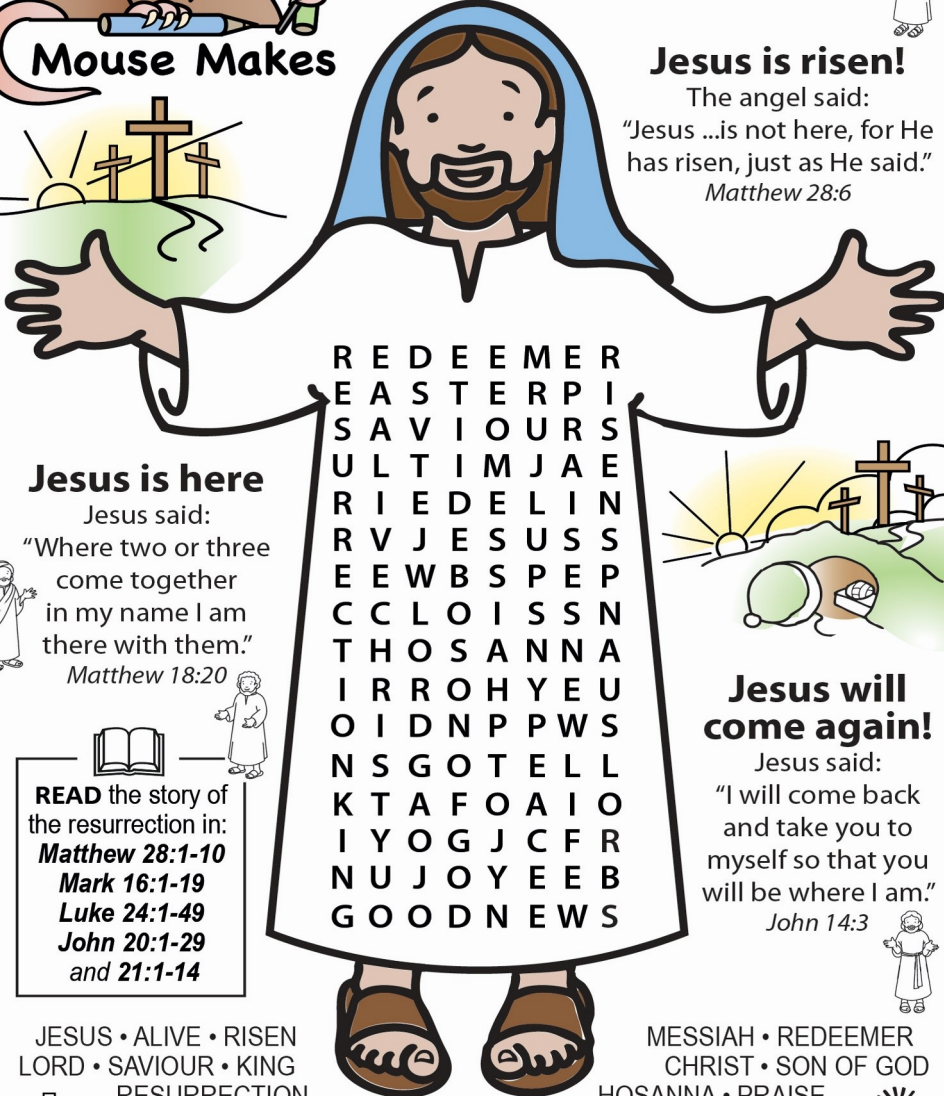
On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us. Jesus put an end to death by dying for us, and showed us the resurrection to come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is here

Jesus said:
"Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them."
Matthew 18:20






Jesus is risen!


The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

READ the story of the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and 21:1-14




Jesus will come again!


Jesus said:
"I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE
GO TELL • EASTER



Give in Lent Calendar

Donate food for the 40 days of Lent. Please check to find out the opening times during Lent and to check if there is anything in particular we're running short of. You can find our food bank details here: collierrowromford.foodbank.org.uk

5 March			
1 Tinned fruit	2 UHT milk	3 Squash	4 Long life sponge pudding
5 Jam	6 Biscuits	7 Soup	8 Tinned fish
9 Rice	10 Coffee (instant)	11 Cooking sauce	12 Cereal
13 UHT milk	14 Tinned tomatoes	15 Toilet roll	16 Tinned vegetables
17 Custard	18 Long life fruit juice	19 Deodorant	20 Tinned meat
21 Chocolate bars	22 Crackers	23 Shower gel	24 Lentils
25 Instant mashed potato	26 Angel Delight	27 Nappies	28 Custard
29 Crisps	30 Washing up liquid	31 Laundry detergent	32 Tinned meat pie
33 Toothpaste	34 Peanut butter	35 Tinned tomatoes	36 Shampoo
37 Tinned vegetables	38 Tinned potatoes	39 Coffee (instant)	40 Tinned meat pie
17 April			

07548 674958
collierrowromford.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1205474 | Registered in England & Wales

Please deliver food donations to:
 Romford Baptist Church,
 Main Road,
 Romford, RM1 3BL

Year 7 in 2025?

Parents, Grandparents, year 6, friends of those going to secondary school in September 2025.

The booklet above, published by Scripture Union, is available free from Andy or the church bookstall.

Please think if you could encourage these young people as they move forward.

Barbara Gatherum



Smile Lines

Good Friday

I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

What can I eat for Easter?

Can't eat beef..... mad cow.

Can't eat chicken..... bird flu.
 Can't eat eggs..... Salmonella.
 Can't eat pork..... fears that bird flu will infect pigs.
 Can't eat fish..... heavy metals in the waters.
 Can't eat fruits and veggies..... insecticides and herbicides.
 Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice.....nasty carbs.



Hmmmmmmmm! I believe that leaves.....chocolate.

(Continued on page 13)